

## **APPENDIX A: U.S. ARMY ORGANIZATION IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES, 1846-1995**

By the time Brig. Gen. Stephen Watts Kearny, marching overland from his victory at Santa Fe, arrived in California in December 1846, the War Department had divided the United States and the territories into the Eastern and Western Divisions with ten military departments under them. The Western Division's Military Departments 9 and 10, created on November 3, 1846, administered the territory recently acquired from Mexico:

Military Department 9 – To embrace so much of the Mexican province of New Mexico as has been or may be subjected to the arms or the authority of the United States.

Military Department 10 – To consist of the Territory of Oregon and so much of the Mexican provinces of the two Californias as has been or may be subjected to the arms or the authority of the United States.

On February 9, 1847, General Kearny assumed command of Military Department 10 and established his headquarters at Monterey. At the same time he became the military governor of California.

The Army completely reorganized its administrative machinery on August 31, 1848, establishing nine military departments in the Eastern and Western divisions, and two independent military departments, 10 and 11. These two reported directly to the War Department:

Military Department 10 – California. Headquarters at Monterey.

Military Department 11 – Oregon Territory. Headquarters at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River.

Later that year, on October 10, 1848, Departments 10 and 11 were assigned to a newly created Pacific Division that also had its headquarters at Monterey. In 1849 the commanding general moved the division headquarters to the City of San Francisco, but only for one month. In July they moved to Benicia where they remained for the next two years.

On May 17, 1851, both military departments merged into the Pacific Division and ceased to exist as such. The division headquarters then directly administered military affairs on the West Coast (California and Oregon Territory). A year later, on June 15, 1852, Pacific Division headquarters moved from Benicia back to the City of San Francisco where it remained for two years.

On October 31, 1853, the Army abandoned the system of divisions and numbered departments and established five new departments each having a descriptive name, each department reporting directly to Headquarters of the Army. At San Francisco the Department of the Pacific headquarters administered military affairs in the country west of the Rocky Mountains, except Utah Territory and the Department of New Mexico, i.e., New Mexico Territory east of the 110th meridian.

On September 2, 1854, the Department of the Pacific headquarters again packed its bags and returned to Benicia where it remained until January 1857.

This revolving door closed on that date when the headquarters returned to the City of San Francisco where it remained for many years to come.

On January 14, 1858, the Department of the Pacific gained the Territory of Utah west of the 117th meridian from the Department of Utah (i.e., western Nevada).

Reorganization continued. On September 13, 1858, the Department of the Pacific came to an end. In its place rose two new departments, each reporting directly to army headquarters:

Department of California – The country west of the Rocky Mountains and south of Oregon and Washington territories, including the Rogue River and Umpqua districts of Oregon, and excluding Utah east of the 117th meridian and New Mexico east of the 110th. Headquarters remained at San Francisco.

Department of Oregon – Oregon and Washington territories, except Rogue River and Umpqua districts.

On January 15, 1861, as the nation neared civil war, the Army revived the Department of the Pacific by consolidating the Departments of California and Oregon and retaining the headquarters at San Francisco. When Brig. Gen. George Wright became the department commander in October 1861, he found that San Francisco's climate aggravated his asthmatic condition and he hoped to move the headquarters to Sacramento. It appears, however, that the headquarters remained at San Francisco while General Wright spent considerable time at Sacramento.

During the war, from 1863 to 1865, the Department of the Pacific had five districts: California, Oregon, Humboldt, Utah, and Southern California.

In July 1865 the Department of the Pacific was abolished and was replaced by the Departments of California and the Columbia. The Department of California, with its headquarters at San Francisco, was composed of California, Nevada, and Arizona Territory.

A month later, August 30, 1865, the Army established the Military Division of the Pacific that embraced California, Oregon, Nevada, and the Territories of Arizona, Washington, and Idaho. It contained two departments:

Department of California – California, Nevada, and Arizona Territory (and, briefly, New Mexico).

Department of the Columbia – Oregon and the Territories of Washington and Idaho.

Headquarters for the Division of the Pacific and the Department of California remained at the City of San Francisco.

On March 18, 1868, the Army established the Department of Alaska and placed it under the Division of the Pacific. This department, however, was discontinued on July 1, 1870, and Alaska was absorbed by the Department of the Columbia.

The Department of Arizona was established under the Division of the Pacific on April 15, 1870. It consisted of Arizona Territory and California south of a line from the northwest corner of Arizona to Point Conception so as to include Los Angeles and San Diego. (Although the Department of Arizona lost Southern California

on February 14, 1883, it regained that part of California south of the 35th parallel on December 15, 1886.)

Beginning December 7, 1871, the one general officer at San Francisco commanded both the Division of the Pacific and the Department of California and the former separate staffs were consolidated into one.

In June 1878 the Congress authorized the Division of the Pacific headquarters to move from San Francisco to the Presidio of San Francisco. This event took place on July 1.

On November 30, 1885, the Territory of New Mexico transferred from the Department of the Missouri to the Department of Arizona, thus coming under the Division of the Pacific.

Early in 1887 the headquarters of the Division of the Pacific, having failed to secure an appropriation for a suitable administration building, moved from the Presidio of San Francisco back to the City of San Francisco.

The Military Division of the Pacific was discontinued on July 3, 1891, and each of the three departments – Arizona, California, and the Columbia – then reported directly to the War Department. The Department of California, with its headquarters at San Francisco, consisted of California north of the 35th parallel and Nevada.

On June 30, 1893, the Department of Arizona was discontinued and part of it, including California south of the 35th parallel, was absorbed by the Department of California.

In 1898 the Hawaiian Islands became part of the Department of California.

Reorganizing in January 1904, the Army established the Pacific Division for the western states. The headquarters occupied the Phelan Building, 806 Market Street, San Francisco. Geographically, the division included California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii. There were now two departments, California and the Columbia. The headquarters of the California Department, also in the Phelan Building, administered California, Nevada, and the Hawaiian Islands. On October 15, 1904, division headquarters moved to the Grant building, 1095 Market Street, while the Department of California remained in the Phelan building.

When the great earthquake hit San Francisco on April 18, 1906, destroying offices in the city, both headquarters moved first to Fort Mason then to the Presidio of San Francisco temporarily, Pacific Division in East Cantonment (May 2) and Department of California in West Cantonment (May 3).

The date the headquarters returned to the reconstructed city has not been determined. Army correspondence stated that they had returned by April 1907.

In July 1911, the Pacific Division was renamed the Western Division. The Departments of California and the Columbia remained under it.

On February 14, 1913, the Western Division was discontinued and on the following day the Western Department was organized. The Departments of California and the Columbia were abolished while Hawaii became a separate department reporting directly to the War Department. This new Western Department included Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana (except Fort Missoula), Yellowstone National Park, California, Nevada, Utah, and Alaska. Headquarters remained at San Francisco. On March 24, 1902, all of Wyoming and Arizona west of the 114° west longitude (Colorado River, Yuma, etc.) were added to the Western Department.

In September 1920, the Army reorganized its operations into nine geographical areas, the West Coast becoming the Ninth Corps Area. Its headquarters moved from the city of San Francisco to the cavalry barracks, 35, at the Presidio of San Francisco on September 1. Ninth Corps Area included Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. (Alaska was added circa 1940).

In the summer of 1932, the Fourth Army was activated at Omaha, Nebraska, largely as a paper organization for the time being. On June 18, 1936, Fourth Army headquarters transferred to the Presidio of San Francisco and there a general officer commanded both the Ninth Corps Area and Fourth Army. Ninth Corps Area was comprised of the eight states while Fourth Army consisted of four infantry divisions and the coast artillery units within those same states.

In 1940 Fourth Army became fully activated, its headquarters being at the Presidio along with Ninth Corps Area's. A general officer commanded both organizations.

On December 7, 1941, following the Japanese attack on Hawaii, the Western Defense Command was activated, its headquarters also being at the Presidio of San Francisco. Its commanding general also commanded the Ninth Corps Area and Fourth Army. In July 1942 the headquarters for the Ninth Corps Area moved from the Presidio to Fort Douglas, Utah, where it became the Ninth Service Command and retained the same geographical area of responsibility.

On September 12, 1943, Fourth Army headquarters moved from the Presidio of San Francisco to San Jose, California, then to the Presidio of Monterey, and in 1944 to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

On November 1, 1943, Alaska was separated from the Western Defense command to become the Alaska Department reporting directly to the War Department.

On March 1, 1946, the Western Defense Command was inactivated and the Sixth U.S. Army, with its headquarters at the Presidio of San Francisco, was activated. The Ninth Service Command was consolidated with it. Sixth U.S. Army's geographical area of responsibility included Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.

(During World War II the Sixth Army had served in the Southwest Pacific under Gen. Walter E. Krueger. It had been inactivated at Kyoto, Japan, on January 26, 1946.)

On August 1, 1973, Sixth U.S. Army was relieved of all missions except that of ensuring maximum readiness of all Army Reserve and National Guard organizations and personnel in the fifteen states that then composed the Sixth U.S. Army area: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, Nebraska, Kansas, and New Mexico. Headquarters remained at the Presidio of San Francisco.

By 1980, the Sixth U.S. Army's area of responsibilities had been reduced from fifteen states to twelve states. New Mexico, Nebraska, and Kansas had moved to another jurisdiction.

On June 23, 1995, a ceremony at the Presidio of San Francisco marked the inactivation of the Sixth U.S. Army. The date of the official inactivation was set for September 30, 1995.